HGRR
929.2
King
PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 8134 0003 1778 7
SEP 05

Part I of II

Memorandum

on

The King Family

of

Palmer, Massachusetts

Part I A. Explanatory notes

B. Transcription of document text

Part II A. Copy of document text

B. Copy of document genealogy charts

Prepared by Edwin R. MacKethan III
August 2003

HGRR
929.2
King
MacKethan

Palmer Public Library
1455 North Main Street
Palmer, MA 01069-1234

printed on acid-free paper

Notes on
"Memorandum on the King Family of Palmer, Massachusetts"

° The "Memorandum on the King Family of Palmer, Massachusetts" recounts the story of John King of Suffolk, England, who in 1716 was the first settler of an area that was known as the Elbow Tract and Kingstown before being named Palmer in 1752.

-From the data in the paper (page 13), it is apparent that it was written in 1892.
-The author is unknown.
-The handwritten text is on twenty-one sheets, numbered from "0" to "20".
-The text is followed by handwritten genealogical charts for the families of the five children of John King who had known descendants and for the descendants of Richard Lord, whose granddaughter married Daniel King.
-These accounts include the line of John King's son Deacon Thomas King, grandson Captain Daniel King, and great-grandson Thomas Butler King, who migrated to Georgia and married Anna Matilda Page of St. Simons Island.
-The paper draws on and supplements the 1889 book History of the Town of Palmer, Massachusetts, Early Known as The Elbow Tract..... by J. H. Temple.
-The paper may have been commissioned by descendants of Daniel and Hannah (Lord) King because of the inclusion of the chart for Richard Lord -- perhaps by the family of Daniel King, TBK's brother, whose section of the Thomas King descendant chart is extensive.
-The paper may be unfinished, because the death dates for Thomas Butler and Anna Matilda (Page) King are left blank, whereas they should have been easily obtainable in 1892.

° A transcription of the text was made in 1996 by Edwin R. MacKethan III, great-great grandson of Thomas Butler King and great-great-great-great-great-grandson of John King.

-The transcription was made from a photocopy of the paper that was in turn copied from a photocopy given to Alexander Heard by McLean Marshall. The location of the original document is unknown.
-Original spellings and basic punctuation were copied as written, although misspelled words were often spelled correctly a line or two later. There were many, many commas written in odd places that were not copied in the transcription.
-Various parts of the text were struck through by the author to make editorial changes. Some of these that were legible and of possible interest were copied in the transcription.
-The transcriber's notes and questions are given square brackets [ ].

Generations of Descent from John and Sarah King to Thomas Butler King

°According to the text of the paper (page 5, etc.), the twelve children of John and Sarah King were:

John jr ("Ensign John"), born 1715, died 1778 -- has descendant chart
Joseph, died young after May 1729
Moses, died 1729 (in youth)
Thomas ("Deacon Thomas"), born 1718 or 1719, died 1801; married Jemima ? -- has descendant chart
William, born 1720; supposedly went west (page 8)
Benjamin, born 1722, died 1756; no record of having been married (page 7)
Sarah, born 1723; never married (page 8)
Aaron, born 1725 (date conflicts with descendant chart), -- has descendant chart
Hannah, born and died 1729
Mary, born 1730 -- has descendant chart
David ("Lieutenant David"), born 1733, died probably about 1799 -- has descendant chart
Jonathan, born 1736; not much known (page 7)

°According to the text of the paper (page 17) and the Thomas King genealogical chart, the children of Deacon Thomas and Jemima King were:

Moses, 1745-1771; descendants unknown
Lucy, born 1747; no descendants
Daniel, born 1749; married Hannah Lord
Ruben, born 1751; left Massachusetts; descendants unknown
Eunis, 1753-1757
Mary, born 1757; no descendants
Eunis (#2), born 1759; no descendants

°According to the text of the paper (page 18, etc.) and the Thomas King genealogical chart, the nine sons of Daniel and Hannah King were:

Daniel, 1781-1859; remained in Palmer; left descendants
John; died at an early age in Savannah, Georgia, where he had engaged in business
Stephen Clay, 1786-1860; became a planter in Wayne County, Georgia; left descendants
Henry, 1788-1861; moved to Pennsylvania; member of Congress; married; no descendants
Reuben, born 1791; died young in Pennsylvania where he was a physician; no descendants
George, born 1792; died in Cuba; no descendants
David, born 1794; died in Wayne County, Georgia where he was a planter; no descendants
Thomas Butler, born 1797; moved to Georgia and married Anna Matilda Page; left decendants
Andrew Lord, 1800-1860; moved to Pa., Ga., and then Cuba where he was a planter; married; no descendants

Summary of the Contents of the Memorandum

Page 0 -- 1718 letter to John King from his mother in England.

Page 1 -- Analysis of the letter, including the education and cultivation of Mrs. King, and account of the early lives of John King and his wife, Sarah Allen.

Page 2 -- Continued account of John and Sarah King and of their settling at the Elbow tract in 1716.

Pages 3, 4 -- Account of the history of Palmer.

Page 5 -- List of the twelve children of John and Sarah King.

Page 6 -- Education of the King children.

Pages 7-10 -- Account of the lives and public service of the King sons and grandsons, including son Deacon Thomas King and grandson Daniel King.

Page 11 -- The tombstones of John King and his wife, Sarah, and of Deacon Thomas King and his wife, Jemima.

Page 12-15 -- Continued account of the lives and public service of the King descendants, particularly the lines of John and Sarah King's sons, Ensign John King and Aaron King. (Note on John Floyd King, son of TBK, on page 13.)

Pages 16, 17 -- List of the public offices in Palmer held by King family members from 1849 to 1860.

Pages 17-20 -- Account of the lives of the descendants of Deacon Thomas King and his son, Captain Daniel King.

Page 17 -- Account of Daniel King, including his marriage to Hannah Lord.

Page 18 -- List of the nine sons of Daniel King. Accounts of sons Henry, Andrew, and Daniel.

Page 19 -- Accounts of sons Stephen Clay and Thomas Butler.

Page 20 -- Continued account of Thomas Butler King

Descendant Charts for the families of five of the children of John and Sarah King

2, Ensign John, born in Boston in 1715.

301, Thomas, born in 1719 (Deacon Thomas).

501, Aaron, born probably 1720/1721.

801, Mary, born 1730; married Sylvanus Walker.

901, David, born 1733.

Memorandum

on

The King Family

of

Palmer, Massachusetts

[written in 1892]

[transcribed August 1996 by ERM III]

*

Edmunstone April 20th 1718

Dear Son

I received your letter April 6th and there could nothing in the world be welcomer to me, except yourself. You send me word you are married. I pray God to bless you and grant you both a happy life together. You send me word you have met with hardships since you left me which is a great trouble to me; but I am glad to see in your letter that you have overcome them. But I think I shall never overcome my grief to think you are so far off, that I have but little hope of ever seeing you again. But, if it is possible, let us meet once more again, which if I had not hopes of, my heart would break. But since we cannot enjoy your company, I beg you to miss no opportunity of letting me hear from you.

I am where you left me, and hope I shall be as long as I live. My son Jonathan and my daughter Mary are with me. I am sorry to hear you live in such a desert place without neighbors. I often wish myself with you. Some of our neighbors here talk of going. I wish they may. I will encourage them what I can. And I doubt not but the gentleman that bought the letter to me will be a good neighbor and friend to you. I pray God he may be.

Your brothers and sisters are all overjoyed to hear from you and desire you to send as often, as you can; and pray send word how we may direct to you.
You send me word you have a son. I pray God to bless him; he is the only grandson I have. Your brother William and your brother Thomas have two brave daughters apiece. I pray God to bless you and your wife and child.
I could wish your child with me. I have sent a small token to you of ten shillings, and your brothers and sisters have sent one shilling apiece to the child, which is fifteen shillings in all.

I am glad to hear you live under the ministry of the Gospel. I pray God to give you grace to improve by it. I hear you keep good fires. I often wish myself with you. The gentleman has almost persuaded your brother Jonathan to come, if I could spare him.

Your ever loving mother

----- King

John King, who came from Edmunston or Edwardston, Suffolk, England settled in Boston during or before the year 1713 &there a few months later married Sarah Allen.

Of his family in England we only know by family tradition that he was one of four brothers William, Thomas, Jonathan & John. This fact is also confirmed by a letter from John King's mother to himself, dated April 20th 1718, the original of which has been lost, but a copy of which has been preserved & reads as follows: *

Her signature to the letter in question had been partially obliterated when the copy was made; but according to family tradition, it was Mary. It is noticeable that in this letter, she speaks of William & Thomas as John's brothers and of Jonathan & Mary as her own children. These expressions suggest the possibility of the latter being the issue of an other marriage of hers. Further on she also speaks to John of his brothers and sisters, showing that she had several daughters, these names are at present unknown to us.++

John King was born in 1681; Sarah Allen in 1691. They were married in 1713 or 1714. According to family tradition he was a naval officer and she a West India heiress. There exists however no documentary evidence to that effect and he is never mentioned by any military or naval title. At the beginning of the last century the occupations of naval officer, privateer, supercargo and Colonial merchant were often closely connected with one another; in fact closely merged into one another. It is reasonable to assume that John King left his native land in one of the above capacities, which as a matter of course would lead to frequent voyages, in the course of which he met Sarah Allen whose father had no doubt West Indian interests, most likely of the mercantile order, Boston at that time doing a large business in that direction. It is not likely that he was the owner of plantations there, as the term West Indian heiress as applied to his daughter would have indicated, because we are told that both John and his wife lost nearly all their property within two or three years after their marriage, which at that period would have been scarcely possible if it had consisted of realties.

++ The letter, considering that it was written at a time when female education was at a very low ebb in England, gives proof of great cultivation on the part of the writer. It compares very favorably with most of the published correspondence of ladies who were her contemporaries. At that period only the daughters of the nobility, of the wealthier gentry, of richer merchants in London or Bristol or of Professors at the Universities could have had an opportunity of acquiring the culture required for writing such a letter. As Mrs King lived in a small country town & according to the contents of her letter found herself in reduced circumstances, it would seem likely that she had belonged to a family of gentry who had became impoverished during the political upheavals which marked the second half of the seventeenth century in England. It is difficult to draw any positive conclusions as to what her religious convictions were and under what influences in that regard her children were brought up. John King's name and those of his acknowledged full brothers show no leaning to dissent from the established Church of England whilst that of her own son Jonathan & some expressions in her letter would point to an affiliation with Puritanism. We know nothing

as to the educational advantages enjoyed by John King, but it is a curious fact that descendants of his in the fifth generation, who are in no other way related to one another, have been educated at different schools & have never met, show a great &striking similarity in their handwriting. It would seem fair to argue that the ancestor from whom they have inherited this peculiarity must himself have possessed it in a highly developed degree which could only have been the result of the habitual use of the pen in his own or his ancestor's past, in that probably both his & his parents were well educated. ++

After the loss of their fortune John & Sarah King decided to go West, which in those days meant to the Western part of Massachusetts. They accordingly settled in the neighborhood of Springfield on land but lately abandoned by the Indians and which still might be subject to their inroads, more than a days journey distant from any neighbors and there engaged in farming operations. The tract on which they settled was Unappropriated Land belonging to the Province of Massachusetts and was known up to the year 1752 by various names, viz Kingsfield, New Marlborough, the Elbow tract and Kingstown. From the year named it was known as the District of Palmer and since 1776 as the town of Palmer. The neighboring townships of Springfield, Hadley and Brookfield had been settled about the middle of the 17th century, but the efforts of the Colonists to penetrate further into the Country had been frustrated by the Indians. King Philipps [an Indian chief] war, which took place about 1775 [should be 1675] had the double effect of breaking up the Indian clans, which had been living in the neighborhood of the colony and of reducing the number of the white population to such an extent that even a generation later the above named three towns counted less than 2000 inhabitants. Under such circumstances the Elbow tract remained virtually uninhabited for forty years. The former Indian occupants had retired and become merged into the Northern tribes. Only a few isolated families occasionally returned to their old haunts, and continued to do so up to the year 1730. War parties of the savages sometimes approached the tract, but we have no records stating that the early settlers were ever actually molested by them.

In 1716 the tract was thickly wooded, but many of the trees were small, as they had only recently sprung up on the fields abandoned by the Indians. Pine trees suitable for the cutting of clapboards, shingles and staves were numerous. The Tract consisted of high hills and low valleys, the hills having very poor, the valleys pretty good soil. The meadows on the riverbanks were comparatively narrow.

The record is that John King pitched near the Quebaug river on the little brook, appropriately named for him Kings brook. Tradition says that this pioneer family, consisting of himself, his wife & their little son John jr, who had been born before they left Boston, spent the first night of their sojourn in their new home at the spring on the hill side, since known as the Tamar spring, near the old graveyard where their dust now slumbers. Some apple trees are said to have sprung up near by from seed dropped by them from the fruit they were eating. Mr King came from Boston by the old Bay Path, on which his log cabin was placed, near the place where at present

the village of Palmer depot stands. It appears from his acknowledgement in a deed that he had a quasi residence in Springfield, viz had religious privileges there, it being the meeting house nearest his dwelling place. For though he was a squatter on Province land, he was required by law to attend on Religious Worship with the organized church next to his abode.

Family tradition says that he replaced his log cabin by a two story frame house within two years, but according to the records no such house was erected in Kingstown until 1733. It is however very likely that with the help of clapboard & shingles he soon built a second home which was a great improvement on his first cabin.

Other families soon came on. Except Mr King most of the early comers were from the neighboring towns & these were soon followed by a number of Scottish Irish families from Ulster, Ireland.

As to the circumstances of the early settlers, & as to their occupations and their way of living, which latter the family of John King must have shared, I make the following extracts from the History of Palmer:

All accounts agree that the majority of the early comers were of the middle class and expected to depend on their labor for support. The timber was at hand with which to build their log cabins. But their "claims" must be cleared &broken up and seeds must be planted for future crops. Fish were plenty in the rivers and game in the swamps. Hogs were a wellknown commodity from the beginning. The settlers brought neat cattle, which would at once be branded & turned out in the woods to graze. Corn and the smaller grains ripened early on the newly cleared lands. Thus a fair variety of food was secured for daily wants. The main crops raised were potatoes, corn, wheat, rye, peas, oats, barley (for malt) & flax. What surplus grain could be spared was carted to Springfield, where it was taken by traders and paid for in cash or goods. Considerable tar and turpentine was made and sold, as well as sawlogs and somewhat later lumber, shingles and staves. An important means of family income was the spinning by the women of linen thread and weaving the same into fine cloth, which found ready sale at good prices in Springfield and all the other towns. Almost all the domestic cloth used for common family garments, sheets and other bed furniture, table cloths, napkins, towels and bags were the produce of flax, either in the form of linen or tow. The flax was homegrown and the cloth homemade. Linsey woolseys, calicoes &silks were obtained by purchase or by exchange for linen cloth in Springfield. Raw wool and cotten were occasionally bought and made into cloth.

Of the first ten years of their life the settlers have left no account except the record of the birth of eight children, six of whom were born to John & Sarah King. In 1726 seventeen families settled on the tract petitioned the General Court of the Province to organize the same as a precinct under further dispositions should be made, which was granted. Soon after it thus had become an established fact that a permanent settlement was to be made, a syndicate of gentlemen, survivors and heirs of a Company that in 1686 had bought a large tract from the Indians, lying near Quebaug, made a movement to locate said purchase so as to cover the tract in question. The acting representatives of this syndicate were the firm of Lamb & Co and their agent the Rev. Timothy Ruggles, whom they authorized to act in selling lots

on the Elbow Tract to the settlers already establish there and to such as might come in and also to establish a church. Mr Ruggles seems to have been succesful in persuading the settlers of the validity of the claims set up by his employers. During the year 1728 he laid out, sold and gave deeds of farms, mostly of one hundred acres each, to forty eight of the inhabitants then living upon the tract of land which was afterwards known the the Elbow. He also persuaded them to accept his ministerial ministrations, as is evidenced by the following quotation, given in The History of Palmer, from Hardvick History per Lucius Page, D. D., viz

Note On the fly leaf of the first volume of the Rochester Church Records is this Memorandum

> On the 18th of May, 1729, then John King and Sarah, his wife, who lived at a place called the Elbow, in Hampshire Co, owned the Covenant, and their children were baptized, viz William, Thomas, Joseph, Benjamin, Aaron and Sarah, by me who was sent by the proprietors of the lands to minister to them.
>
> Timothy Rugles

Had the visit been six months later, the result might have been different.

In the course of the summer of 1729 doubts seem to have arisen in the minds of the Inhabitants of the Elbow as to the rights of Lamb &Co to grant them titles to the lands occupied by them. These doubts were justified when in Nvmb of that year they petitioned the General Court for a confirmation of their titles &found that the Court declined to recognize the pretensions put forward by Lamb &Co.

This condition of things led to the presentation of numerous petitions to the Court within the next four years on the part of Lamb &Co for the purpose of obtaining a confirmation of their ownership of the Elbow tract and on the part of the Inhabitants, among whom John King is constantly and prominently mentioned, for the purpose of obtaining unquestioned titles for their farms. At last in 1733 the former were induced to relinquish all their pretended claims and the latter determined to throw themselves on the mercy of the Court. They appointed a Committee of three, of whom John King was one, who proceeded to Boston, acknowledged on behalf of the inhabitants the ownership of the Province in the Elbow tract and petitioned in their behalf that they might be confirmed in the possession of the one hundred acre farms actually occupied by them, that the tract might be organized as a Plantation and that it be authorized to establish its own church. All of this was granted by the General Court, which also decreed on what conditions new settlers in the Plantation should be allowed to acquired property. A Committee was appointed which formally conferred titles to the Inhabitants for their farms, among them to John King sr for his home lot on Kingsbrook and to his Son John King jr then only 18 years old for the Tamar spring lot, both being farms of 100 acres each. This was the beginning of Kings Row. Other children of John King's children as they grew up acquired the adjoining farms and the line of dwellings occupied by them was known by that name. The Court also granted to John King sr seventy acres near his North East corner as being

the assigned of James Dorchester jr and 225 acres as his share of the unoccupied part of the Elbow tract.

At the first Meeting of the Proprietors & Grantees of the Elbow tract held Aug 17th 1733, John King was elected member of a Committee charged with the organization of the government of the Plantation. In March 1734 he acted as moderator to a similar meeting which decided on ordaining the Rev Mr Harvey, who had been officiating to the settlers for some time past, to the office of ministry for the plantation. He continued to take an interest in public affairs until near the end of his life, as is shown by a petition to which he affixed his name in 1739 and which protested against certain taxes, which it was proposed to levy in the Plantation. His name is mentioned in a similar manner in the Records for the year 1742.

Mr King in the course of his life sold portions of the lands granted him and bought other lots instead. His own home farm was sold after his death. The site of his dwelling house in 1889 was owned by Dr Wm Holbrook; his barn formed part of the out buildings of Mr David Knox, who himself was a descendant of John King sr's and John King jr's.

Very few relics have come down from him to the present generation, the only ones which can hear of at present being: a brass candlestick; a form for making pewter spoons and a tailor's goose. they are all in the posession of the Knox family, who intend presenting them to the Young Mens Library Association of Palmer.

John King sr died in April 1744, his wife survived him eighteen years and died Janry 1st 1762

Their can be no doubt that he occupied a position of some eminence among his neighbors. This is confirmed by the fact that the Inhabitants of the Plantation, when petitioning in 1752 to be organized as a district, asked that it be called Kingstown. In the latter respect they were not gratified. The Governor in order to tickle the vanity of one of his relatives called the district Palmer. Local tradition would seem to indicate a survival of the feeling that he in some way had been superior to his surroundings; the historian of Palmer frequently speaks of him as Mr King, a distinction which he accords to him alone among the early settlers.

John &Sarah King had twelve children, nine of whom survived him, viz

John jr	b. 1715	
Joseph	date of birth unknown	died young after May 18th 1729
Moses	" " " "	" April 26th 1729
Thomas	b. 1718 or 1719	
William	" 1720	
Benjamin	" 1722	
Sarah	" 1723	
Aaron	" 1725	
Hannah	" Aug 8th 1729	d. Sept 4th 1729
Mary	" Dec 30th 1730	
David	" April - 1733	
Jonathan	" Jany 17th 1736	

Family tradition asserts that Moses was the first child born and the first which died in the new settlement. It is noticeable that the parents had all their other children baptized within a few weeks of his death. Their oldest son had probably been baptized before they left Boston and in their isolated situation they had neglected to have the rite performed for their other children until the death of Moses

unbaptized reminded them of their duty to do so.

No regular school existed in Palmer before the year 1752. John King's children must have been dependent for their education on the efforts of their parents. The time which could be devoted to teaching and learning must have been necessarily short, consisting of such hours only as could be shared from agricultural pursuits. It is a further testimony to Mr King's culture that his elder children, under such disadvantageous circumstances, should have acquired the knowledge and cultivation which is displayed in the documents drawn up later on by his son Thomas. It is noticeable that according to official documents which are still preserved the younger children, whose years for learning fell into the period between their fathers death and the establishment of the first school, seem to have been somewhat deficient in booklearning.

John King's children followed in their fathers footsteps and took the same interest in public affairs and wielded the same influence among their neighbors. The period of their activity extends principally from the erection of the district of Palmer to the end of the Revolutionary war. Some of them survived the latter date, but generally speaking a third generation at that time began to supplant them. During the thirty years in question Palmer continued to be a farming community; but the condition of the Inhabitants however gradually but steadily improved. The country to the West and North was settled and Palmer ceased to be a frontier village. At the same time the cities on the seaboard continued to grow. In this way better markets were opened to the farmers of Palmer; at the same time improved cultivation increased the yield of their acres; they grew in wealth; greater comfort followed. Log cabins were generally replaced by frame houses; as mentioned above public schools were established; the Proprietors began to employ hired labor for farmwork, in some exceptional cases even slave labor. The roads were improved and as they led to the further settlements travellers often passed thru the heretofore isolated districts. The necessity for a hotel or inn made itself felt. John King jr therefore in 1750 established a tavern, which was maintained as a public house for three quarters of a century. This building is not to be confounded with his own dwelling. With the ease and comfort of the Inhabitants, their duties and responsibilities grew and they were called upon to bear their share of the troubles which fell on the citizens of Mass., to contribute to her defense during the French Indian wars and to swell her forces in her successful struggle for liberty during the war of the Revolution.

I have thought it proper to give the above hints regarding the condition of the district before entering on a detailed account of the activity of the second generation of the King family.

It will no doubt be surprizing and perhaps amusing to some of the descendants of John King jr to learn that the first official appointment which their ancestor r'ced was that of Hogg Reeve in the year 1735. But better things were in store for him. We find from the Records of the first District Meeting of Palmer June 30th 1752 that he had been acting as Assessor and that he was then appointed Constable. It now became the duty of the district to organize its Militia in conformity with the Laws of the Province

and it was not long ere they were called on for active service. The King's responded to the call with alacrity. The occasion was the last French and Indian war, which broke out in 1754 and lasted until 1763.

I find that Jonathan King served from Sept 11th to Dec 23rd 1755 in Cpt Ebenezer Moulton's Company, which was employed in the Crown Point expedition. I may state here that this is the only fact which I have been able to glean regarding this youngest of John King sr's sons. In the memorandum regarding the King family left by the late Mr Andrew King, he stated that Jonathan King was the father of Dr. King of Ware, Mass. I have no information whatsoever regarding the latter.

In 1750 three of the King brothers served in Col. John Worthington's Regiment, viz Ensign John King (after this date distinguished by that title), Sergeant William King and David King.

In the same year Benjamin King enlisted and was killed by the Indians at Fort Massachusetts June 7th 1756. There exists no record of his having been married.

Sylvanus Walker, the husband of Mary King, served in Cpt Solomon Keyes' Company from July to December of the same year. The following year 1757 was the eventful year of the war. The French under Montcalm threatened to invade the Provinces of New England and the Militia generally served as they had done the year before. We find that John King is mentioned as serving in Israel Williams' Company from Janry to Nvmb. No military title is given to him and the notice therefore probably refers to John, eldest son of Ensign John, then seventeen years old and later known as Cpt John King.

A muster roll of Col William Williams' regiment for 1758 for the reduction of Canada mentions the name of Ensign John King.

In 1759 Sylvanus Walker served as Capt of a Company in the expedition against Crown Point.

I can find no record of either Aaron King or Thomas King having served during the war. The former is not mentioned at all during that epoch. Thomas who had been elected a Deacon seems to have been much concerned with the interests of the church, altho' on one occasion he came nigh giving grave offense to the members. According to the History of Palmer, the tradition is

> "That in the time of the last Indian war, when men carried fire arms on all occasions, Deacon Thomas King, who lived on South Main Street, started for Meeting one Sabbath morning armed as the law required and on passing this spot spied a bear among the branches of a tree. Obeying a natural impulse, he fired and killed the dangerous beast. The law of self preservation and the safety of his family and flocks required the deed, but the Sabbath observance was technically violated. The church took up the matter as a case of discipline but in the end decided that it was a "work of necessity and mercy" and withheld censure. It is an interesting fact that in all deeds of this estate down to the present time the Beartree (a venerable Pine) is reserved from sale and transfer with the fee of the land"

~~We find from~~ According to the records, ~~that~~ Deacon Thomas in 1758 was occupied in regulating the finances of the church ~~& that~~ in 1763 after the new church building had been finished under supervision of a Committee

of whom Ensign John was one. ~~Deacon Thomas~~ was active in selling the pews & apportioning seats to those Inhabitants who were not owners of pews. It appears that he himself occupied his official seat as Deacon and that Ensign John, his son James, David King and the Deacons children Moses and Lucy had seats in side Gallery, which seems to have been considered more desirable than those in the body of the church. The elder generation had seats on the front bench. The members of the family not named in this connection must have been pewholders.

If ~~we~~ find an explanation for Thomas' absence from the ranks of the military in the relation which he bore towards the church, ~~we~~ may venture to ascribe Aaron's reluctance to join them to the peculiar character of his domestic relations. He had married Sarah Kibbe of Connecticut. Family tradition relates the following: She had been in love with a certain John Lamb, but her father had objected to him on account of his poverty. He therefore determined to leave for foreign parts in order to try and better his fortunes. He had promised to write to her; she to wait for him. He had written regularly; but her father had intercepted her letters. At last doubting his constancy, she unwillingly had complied with her fathers wishes and had married Aaron King. A few years later, John Lamb had returned, well furnished with the goods of this world, to claim his bride, only to find her married to another. She was unable to hide her despair or the affection of her old lover. Her husband granted her liberty of action either to leave him or stay with him. Her sense of duty towards him and towards her children determined her decision; but in 1754, just before the war broke out, her two sons Aaron and Joseph, two and four years old, died leaving her with only one daughter. She conscienciously did her duty by her family, but late in life, when her faculties began to leave her, when she sometimes could not recognize or even recollect her children, one thought was always in her heart, that of John Lamb and his name upon her lips. She lived to be nearly hundred years old.

Shortly before John Lamb's reappearance, Aaron accidentally had shot &killed a friend, with whom he had gone bear hunting. This misfortune cast a gloom over his life which was never entirely dispelled.

Whilst the events referred to above happened, the members of the King family had not been unmindful of their own affairs. It is true that we know nothing as to Jonathans doings and of Williams we only learn by family tradition that he went West, one source with his family [sic]; he reappears once more during the Revolutionary war to serve in the army for a few months.

But the other brothers had done well. The larger part of the lands belonging to the farms situated on the River South of the old Bay Path and since known as Kings Row had passed into their hands. Ensign John, Deacon Thomas and David lived there. Not far distant Aaron & their brother in law Cpt Sylvanus Walker had dwellings & farms. It is curious to note that part of a farm on King Row in 1752 was sold to Joseph King, by which the infant son of Aaron must have been meant, for whom his father was trying to provide. As mentioned above the child died two years later. I can find no information about Sarah King, except that she never married. Probably she lived with one or the other of her brothers, most likely with David, who was unmarried.

Ensign John did not serve with the forces of the Colony after 1758. In 1759 he was elected one of the Selectmen and served in that capacity for four years. Deacon Thomas, who had been Selectman in 1756, was in 1762 elected Clerk of the District and held the position for nine years, until 1770. He [sic] 1767 he acted on a Committee which was charged to attend to the building of schoolhouses in different parts of the District.

During the next few years the King's seem to have taken little part in public affairs; but with the approach of the Revolutionary war we see them coming into prominence again.

In 1774 at the annual District Meeting March 22d Aaron King was elected both Surveyor of Highways and Culler of Staves &Shingles. On Sept 19th Deacon Thomas was elected on a Committee to look into the state of the stock of powder and lead. This is the first note of Revolution which I hear struck in the District. On Oct 10th Deacon Thomas was elected on a Committee of Inspection and Ensign John and Aaron on a Committee to receive donations for the poor of Boston.

In 1775 at the annual District Meeting Deacon Thomas was elected Assessor, his son Moses warden, John (probably not Ensign John, but his son) highway surveyor, Aaron culler of staves and shingles. During the first months of the year the Palmer Company of minute men was organized and on the news of the Lexington Alarm reaching the District April 19th 1775 they at once marched to the scene of Action under command of Cpt Spear. At that time there served in the Company Lieutenant David King, Ensign John King, Corporal Daniel King (son to Deacon Thomas), Privates John King & Gideon King (sons to Ensign John).

On April 24th the Committee of Safety at Cambridge adressed the following note to Cpt Sylvanus Walker "You are hereby empowered immediately to enlist a Company to consist of 56 able bodied and efficient men, including sergeants, as soldiers in the Massachusetts service for the promotion of American liberty, and cause them to pass muster as soon as possible." He at once proceeded to organize the Company and served as its Cpt in Col Timothy Danielson's Regiment until his health failed. He then returned to Palmer. He has been remembered by some of the past generation as one that received a Colonel's Commission with a request from Gen. Washington to return to the army, but was never able. His eldest son Calvin died in the war. Few Palmer men served in his Companies. After the first months of the war most of the Massachusetts Military organizations seem to have lost their local character and it therefore becomes difficult to follow the careers of the individual soldiers. We however learn by the Records that

John King (son of Ensign John) served as Cpt in Col. Timothy's regiment, Gideon (son of the same) in Lieut. Joshua Shaws' Company of Col. Elisha Porters Regiment which took part in the battle of Saratoga, Lieutenant David King in Cpt Aaron Graves Company and in 1779 in Capt Shaws Company of Col. Elisha Porters Regiment at New London, William son of John sr for thirty days from Sept 26th 1777 in Cpt Reuben Murm's [?] Company Col. Elisha Porters Regiment detached to join Gnl Gates' Army. According to family tradition Daniel King son of Deacon Thomas fought at Bunker Hill and rose to the rank of Captain.

Returning to Palmer we learn that in the year 1776 the Selectmen, of whom Deacon Thomas was one, after the Inhabitants on May 29th had assumed town privileges by chosing a Representative to the General Assembly of Mass, called a meeting for June 17th, at which Independance from Great Britain was proclaimed, seventeen days before it was proclaimed by the Continental Congress and that Aaron was elected to the Committee of Correspondence. In 1777 he was reelected.

In 1778 Deacon Thomas was again chosen Selectman and also member of a Committee charged to take care of soldiers widows and families.

In 1779 He was elected to Committees which were to give instructions to Cpt David Spear, Representative of the town in the General Court and to Lieutenant Joshua Shaw, delegate to the State Convention at Cambridge.

In 1780 Cpt Sylvanus Walker was elected to the Committee of Safety.

In 1782 the war ended and a new era began for the town of Palmer, as for the whole country. In the meantime Ensign John and probably his brother Aaron had died. Deacon Thomas lived until 1801 but seems to have to taken no further share in Public affairs. These fell to the lot of their younger brother David and of members of the next generation, Cpt John son of the Ensign, ~~Cpt David second son of Deacon Thomas~~ and Jesse youngest son of Aaron.

Lieutenant David in 1775 had married Mary Graham, widow of the Rev. Mr Graham of Pelham, Mass. As the signed will shows, both she and her two sisters, daughters of Mr Lee of Somers, Connecticut, who was killed by an explosion, became closely connected with the King family. Mrs Graham, when she married Lieutenant King had four children living viz 1, David, who became a marble cutter. I have no record as to where and in which capacity he carried on this calling. He may have been the first to conceive the idea to utilize the mineral resources of the township & may have mined the marble. There could scarcely have existed a sufficient market for manufactured goods of that material in Palmer & he seems to have resided there and to have adopted his stepfather's name. The historian of Palmer in describing King Row as it was in 1812 states that "on the slope where is now the brick dwelling house lived David King, a grandson of John Sr." I can find no other member of the family bearing that name at the time. 2, Billy, who lived with his stepfather and was killed by a fall from his horse. 3, Mary Lee, who married Jesse King, son of Aaron. 4, Nabby, who was adopted by her mothers youngest sister called Nabby herself & who was married three times, her first husband being Col. Isreal Seymour of Hartford, Conn, who was killed by lightning; the third Mr Benedict. Nabby Graham married Cpt John Hemptead of Conn, and her grandson David Lee Hempstead eventually married his cousin Ivanna L. King, granddaughter of Cpt. Jesse King.

The eldest daughter of Mr. Lee married the Rev Moses Baldwin who filled the pulpit at Palmer from 1761 to 1811 and whose son William in 1796 married Betty King daughter of Cpt John. The history of Palmer says about them "They lived in town and had five children. The two eldest King & Ezra settled in South Carolina. William jr went to White Plains, N. Y. & married Amanda Derbyshire there. They were the parents of fourteen children. Elizabeth D. born July 12th 1831, married Geo W Tuppe of Wilbraham and had a family of four children. John, the fourth son of William &Betty Baldwin, married Philana Shearer. By trade he was a mason &followed the occupation for ten years, probably as a contractor as he seems to have accumulated sufficient means during that period. Kept the Hotel and carried on farming for upward of twenty years; and in the

management of his own industries he exercised that judgment &faculty for the transaction of business that the citizens frequently selected him to take charge of their town affairs. His eldest son William died in California. The fifth son of William &Betty, Joseph, remarried in turn..... He and his family remain in possession of the old homestead at the present time.

As to Lieutenant David I find that altho in the later years of his life he was so lame that he could walk only by the support of a chair he served in 1783 as Treasurer of the town, that from 1784 to 1796 he was elected eight times Selectman and that in the latter year he was sent as Representative to the General Court. In 1787 he served on the School Committee and in 1795 on a Committee to superintend the work on a New Meeting House for the town. He had three children, two of whom died young. The eldest daughter Sarah married John Watson of Palmer and had one daughter Sarah who married O. H. Bidwell, about when I have been unable to obtain any information. John Watson was in possession of Lieut David's homestead and farm when the freight depot of the Boston & Albany R R was established on its site. Lieut. David probably died abt 1799.

Cpt Sylvanus Walker died in 1797. A statement of the names of his descendants will be found in the Genealogical Table accompanying this paper. I know nothing of their History except that Calvin Walker, grandson of Cpt Sylvanus, died in the war of 1812.

The tombstones of John King sr &of some of his immediate family are standing in the Old Cemetery of Palmer. The inscriptions on them read as follows:

1, Mr John King
Died April ye --, 1744 aged 63 years

2, Benjamin
His son, was killed by the Indians at Fort Massachusetts
June ye 7th, 1756, in his 34 year

3, In memory of
Mrs Sarah
Widow and relict of Mr John King, who died Janry 1st 1762
in ye 71 year of her age

4, In memory of
Ensign John King
who died with small pox July 2d 1778 in the 64 year of his age
He was born in Boston and was of public spirit, excellent in
his morals, a supporter of the church and a friend to mankind

5, Dea. Thomas King
Died May 28th, 1801, aged 83 years

6, Also his wife Jemima
Died January 23d, 1817, aged 98 years

In the list of taxpayers of Palmer for the year 1786, the following names appear:

Thomas King	2 polls (the second probably being his son David)	
Moses	"	)
Reuben	"	) sons of Thomas

David King 2 polls (the second probably being his adopted son Billy Graham)
Widow Deborah King (second wife of Ensign John)
John King 2 polls (the second probably being that of one of his brothers-in -law)
James King, the former's full brother
Gideon King)
Benjamin King) sons of Ensign John by his second wife
Jesse King
Sylvanus Walker
Sylvanus Walker jr, his son
Isaac Ferrell, husband of Cpt John King's daughter Anna

Up to this date the history of the King family was closely interwoven with that of Palmer and the latter therfore offers an easy path by which to follow the former. The greater number of John sr's children were sons and their patromonie makes it comparatively easy to follow up their individual carreer. From now on the family follows the fortunes of the Union and spreads itself over the old and new states and territories. In some branches the number of daughters largely prevails and as they marry the name of King vanishes and they and their descendants become difficult to trace. I cannot therefore pretend to give as full details about the latter generations as I have done regarding the two first. All the names that I have been able to trace will be found in the genealogical table. I have gathered detailed information only regarding a comparatively small number of them. Such as it is, it will be found in the following pages. It is noticeable that the later generations seem generally to acknowledge with pleasure and perhaps pride their descent from John King sr. In many genealogical tables, which at first sight seem to indicate no connection with the King family, the initials J. K. given to a child have arrested my attention and following up the clue I have always succeeded in tracing a relationship to the Kings of Palmer.

John King jr had been married twice. The children of his second wife Deborah seem to have severed their connection with Palmer early. The genealogical table indicates that her descendants must be numerous. I at this day can only locate one of them Albert Henry King, a member of the N. Y. stock Exchange.

The descendants of his first wife Margaret on the contrary intermarried with most of the more prominent families in Palmer, with the McElwanes, Shaws, Ferrels, Baldwins, Shearers and later with the Barkers & Knox's who have perpetuated the King blood and distinguished themselves in that town after the name itself had begun to disappear from councils and almost from her soil. Cpt John had no sons; his brother James no grandsons of the King name.

Cpt John King served as Selectman in 1783, 1793 and from 1808 to 1812. He died in 1812.

His contemporary Cpt Jesse King (son of Aaron) served as Selectman in 1787, 1796 & 1797, from 1802 to 1805, from 1808 to 1813 & in 1815 and as Representative in the General Council from 1809 to 1812 and 1815. After that date I do not find his name connected with Public Affairs except as far as church matters are concerned, in which he was active up to 1825. He is represented by family tradition as a man in whom the domestic virtues were developed to their highest degree. Some time before the birth of her youngest child his wife was paralyzed and she never recovered the use of her limbs altho she lived to be over sixty years of age

Her husbands gentle, tender and affectionate ministrations to her wants were the admiration of all who saw them. It is interesting to learn that he bought for her use the first chaise seen in Palmer. The great grief of his life was the fate of his brother Isaac. The History of Palmer says of the latter: "Returned to the old country." According to family tradition: "He married Lydia, niece of a prominent lawyer in Brimfield. She proved a perfect Jezebel. Instead of building her own house, like a wise woman, she pulled hers down or burnt it over their own heads; and she succeeded in falsely convicting her husband of crimes that threatened his liberty and life. Secreted in the woods, his brother Jesse fed him until he went into voluntary exile. This was a great grief to his brother; he mourned his loss deeply and was never willing to talk about him. He would not allow the renegade wife to enter his house; but his mother would give her food from the window when she came to beg it in the night. She was called "Old Lyd" and died a vagabond. Her only daughter married a Blackman.

Cpt Jesse left a large family. According to a letter written by a granddaughter of his eldest son Aaron (always called Dr. Aaron) the latter was a physician for more than half a century, living at one time in New York City, afterwards at Thompson, Conn, and finally died in Palmer, where he passed the greater part of his life, at the age of 79. He married Eliza Ketchum of New York. Dr King was one of the best physicians in those days, a man greatly beloved, filling all the important positions of the town and county and, like his father, a man of strict integrity, possessed the entire confidence of the public. One fourth of July Dr King went to see some young men fire off a small cannon. Being filled too full, the cannon burst and a piece hurt Dr King, cutting a large gash in both legs and breaking the bone of his left leg near the thigh. He lay upon his bed 90 days. The best surgeons were sent for, far and near, to take off his leg. One of them came thirty miles, bringing his son to witness the operation. When Dr. King found it was their intention to amputate his leg he said: I will not have it done, I should die in your hands. They said: You will certainly die if it is left on, to which he answered: I will go altogether. His wife urged him to have it off, but he was very firm. He recovered and lived to a good old age, walking with a cane or without one. It is an interesting fact the Col John Floyd King, a great grandson of Deacon Thomas, whilst serving in the Confederate Army, under similar circumstances acted almost exactly as Dr Aaron had done and with the same happy results. Dr. Aaron's second wife was Eveline King whom he married in 1839. As far as I know she was no relative. As to the public affairs held by him, the records show him to have been Treasurer of Palmer from 1823 to 183?, to have frequently served on the School Committee between 1807 and 183?, and to have gone to the State Senate in 1849 and 1850. He died in 1861. He had a large family. All of his children left Palmer except the younger son George A, born in 1843, who was one of the taxpayers in 1888. The second son John Stearns settled at Geneva, N. Y., where he is still living, seventy five years old. [i.e. The date of this paper is 1892.] His eldest son Morris King resides at Norfolk, Va, is Manager of the Norfolk Southern RR Cy. One of Dr Aaron's daughters Ivanna L married first David L. Hemstead of Buffalo, N. Y, whom I have already mentioned as being a greatgrandson of the widow Mary Graham who was married to Lieut David, and secondly the Rv John A Murray of Geneva, N. Y. A

few years ago she and her children were living in Detroit, Mich, where her sons were engaged in business. She died in 1890.

Cpt Jesse's second son Isaac married Abby Cutler, who is being remembered with much affection by such of her husbands relations as knew her. Col Isaac was selectman of Palmer in 1828, 1829, 1847 and 1848 and served on the School Committee in 1828. In 1837 he was instrumental in establishing for the "Mason school district of the town a District School Library" which prospered under his fostering care. In this connection it may be mentioned that the first Library of the town, viz The Palmer Social Library, had been established in 1815, "the Kings", Cyrus Knox and others having taken shares in it. Col Isaac died in 1875, having lived on the farm originally purchased by his grandfather Aaron, on which he was succeeded by his youngest son Joseph and on which the latters widow &children are now living. All the other children of Col. Isaac left Palmer. All of his descendants, as far I can learn, are living in the New England States. The eldest son Aaron moved to Nashua, N. H, where his descendants are now residing.

Cpt Jesse's third son Joseph, according to a letter already quoted "went South and married, accumulated quite a property and was preparing to come North when he was killed by some unknown hand." Another account says: "He went to Mobile, Ala, and met with great success as a merchant. One night the doorbell rang; he went to the door, when he was struck on the head; as he fell, the man ran. He was restored to consciousness but never recovered from the blow. The man who struck him owed Mr King a large sum of money which was nearly due and he intended to kill him." I have thus far been unable to trace his descendants.

Cpt Jesse King's eldest daughter Sarah married probably in 1805 or 1806 Daniel Shearer, a lawyer, greatgrandson of James Shearer who settled in the Elbow in 1726 and was one of the original Grantees. According to a paper written by her daughter Mrs Blanchard "On her wedding day the guests accompanied her to her new home, twenty couples, each on horseback as no carriages were then in use." A few years later, when the great migration from the New England states to the West had begun, Mr Shearer moved his family to Oxford, Ohio, where he had bought a town lot. After an arduous journey they were first beginning to settle down in their new home when their eldest child, a boy, died. Mr Shearer then determined to move further on to St Louis; but before he reached that city fell ill at Cascazka, Illinois, where a settlement had just been made, and died. Shortly after the father's death a child was born. As soon as possible Mrs Shearer, shattered in health, started on her homeward journey with her four children. After untold hardships she arrived at Palmer in the midst of winter, only to lose thro' the negligence of a stranger the baby, which she had preserved from infancy during the trials which she had to endure. In 1831 she married Mr Gamwell of Palmer. Of her three surviving daughters by her first marriage the youngest Columbia married a Mr Cutler, the two elder Elvira and Jane M married Mr Alonzo V Blanchard and William Blanchard respectively in 1827 and 1831. The husbands were sons of Maj John B Blanchard

the first Manufacturer of Palmer. He in 1824 established a scythe manufactory on the mill site of what is now known as Blanchardsville, to which his sons later added a manufactory of other agricultural implements. Mr A. V. Blanchard was living in 1889. No mention is made of his or his brother William's descendants in the list of rate payers for 1888. I shall refer later on to their public services.

Cpt Jesse King's second daughter Myrana married in 1807 Cpt Timothy Ferrell, younger brother to Isaac Ferrell who had in 1786 married Anna King, eldest daughter of Cpt John. They were grandsons of Robert Ferrell, one of the Grantees, having settled at the Elbow in 1727. Their father was Lieutenant Timothy Ferrell, who had married Sarah McElvaine, whose sister Betty was wife to Cpt John King. Therefore Isaac Ferrell and his wife Anna were first cousins. Both brothers have numerous descendants, about whom I only have learned the following items that Henry King Ferrill born in 1868, great grandson of Isaac Ferrill, according to English laws of Primogeniture, is the present representative of John King s, that his fathers second wife Mrs John King Ferrill was living in Palmer a few months ago with her son Robert Edward, that Cpt Timothy Ferrels youngest son George Isaac King Ferrel served in the Ninth Pennsylvania Cavalry during the war between the states and that the latter's eldest sister Mary married Henry King, grandson of Deacon Thomas, about whom more later.

Cpt Jesse Kings third daughter Nabbie married Gresham Makepease of Warren, Mass., whose descendants are living in New England, mostly in Massachusetts. Their youngest daughter Susan Hempstead married the Rev Moses K Cross and died last year at Waterloo, Ia. She had no children.

Cpt Jesse Kings youngest daughter married Daniel King, grandson of Deacon Thomas, whom I shall mention again later.

When speaking of the descendants of John King jr I have mentioned that Cpt John's second daughter married John Shaw. Their daughter Peggy married Cyrus Knox in 1818. The historian of Palmer says about him: "He came to Palmer in 1813 at the age of 18 years. He married Peggy a daughter of John Shaw, who was one of the principal real estate owners of what is now the present village of Palmer. Mr Knox and wife became heir to a large portion of the property that has been sold in lots that now contain the residences of the west part of the village. Col Knox was a worthy citizen, beloved by his acquaintances, honored and respected for his good judgment, fair dealings in business transactions and the interest he took in business pertaining to the welfare of the town." On another page the historian, referring to the year 1813, says: "Kings tavern occupied the spot where Cross' block now stands and was then the dwelling of Col. Cyrus Knox." In a note he adds: John King jr built a house here early, which was used as a tavern. It was burnt in 1763 with all its contents. but the neighbors all turned out, cut the timber and hauled it to the spot and in a weeks time had set [?] the frame of a new two story house, which remained till it was taken down in 1838. Col Cyrus' sons John King Knox and David Knox remained in Palmer, where the former and the descendants of the two brothers are still living.

A granddaughter of James King, son of Ensign John, Mary was married to David Best and afterwards, if I am not mistaken, to Mr Avery of Florida, whose son is the well known author and journalist Col. Avery of Atlanta, Ga.

The following Statement shows the public offices occupied in Palmer from the beginning of the century until 1860 by descendants of John King sr & by the husbands of his descendants.

1849 & 1850 Dr Aaron King State Senator
1835 to 1838 Col. Cyrus King, County Commissioner
1823 " 1835 Dr Aaron King, Town [?] Treasurer
1848 Wm J Blanchard, Town [?] Clerk & Treasurer

	Selectman	School Committee	Representative
1801			
1802	Cpt Jesse King, David Shearer		
1803	do do		
1804	do , Isaac Ferril		
1805	do , do, David Shearer		
1806	No record		
1807	Isaac Ferril		
1808	Cpt Jesse King, Cpt John King		
1809	" "		Cpt Jesse King
1810	" "		Cpt Jesse King
1811	" "	Isaac Ferril, John Baldwin Aaron King, Daniel King	"
1812	"	Daniel King	"
1813	"		
1814	Isaac Ferril	Dr Aaron King	
1815	Cpt Jesse King	"	Cpt Jesse King
1816		Daniel King	
1817		Dr Aaron King	
1818			
1819			
1820			
1821			
1822	Daniel King		
1823	"	Dr Aaron King, Daniel King	
1824		Dr. Aaron King	
1825		Dr Aaron King, Cyrus Knox	
1826	Cyrus Knox		
1827	"	Dr Aaron King, A. V. Blanchard	
1828	Isaac King	Isaac King, A. V. Blanchard	Daniel King
1829	"	A. V. Blanchard	
1830	Cyrus Knox	Dr Aaron King	Cyrus Knox
1831	Timothy Ferrell	"	
1832	Cyrus Knox		
1833	Alonzo V. Blanchard		Daniel King

	[Selectman]	[School Committee]	[Representative]
1834	Cyrus Knox		
1835	"		Cyrus Knox
1836	Marble K Ferrel, Wm J. Blanchard		Alonzo V. Blanchard
1837	" "		
1838	Wm J. Blanchard	A. V. Blanchard	Marble K Ferril
1839	A. V. Blanchard	"	Wm J. Blanchard
1840	John Gamwell	"	
1841	John Gamwell,A.V.Blanchard,Gilbert Barker	"	
1842	A. V. Blanchard		
1843	"		
1844			Gilbert Barker
1845	Marble K Ferrel, Gilbert Barker		
1846	Gilbert Barker	A. V. Blanchard	

	Selectman	School Committee	Representative
1847	Isaac King, W. J. Blanchard	A. V. Blanchard	
1848	"	"	
1849	A. V. Blanchard, M. K Ferrel, Cyrus Knox	"	
1850	" " "		
1851	" " "		
1852	"		
1853			
1854	Gilbert Barker		Gilbert Barker
1855	David Knox		
1856	"		
1857			
1858			
1859			
1860	Gilbert Barker		

Since 1860 the members of the King connection do not seem to have taken a prominent part in the public affairs of the town. The only office held by one [of] them, which I find recorded, is that of Representative by ~~Cyrus~~ David Knox in 1865.

Deacon Thomas, the maiden name of whose wife Jemima I have not yet been able to discover had seven children, three sons Moses, Daniel &Reuben, the latter of whom left the state and was never heard of again altho' his brothers and sisters confectened that he had gone to Virginia, and four daughters, two of whom died in childhood. The two others never married.

Daniel after fighting during the first years of the war in the Revolutionary Army went to New London Conn &established large saltworks, which proved remunerative. He there met and married Miss Hannah Lord, daughter of John Lord of Lyme Quarter. It is reported that her marriage portion included twenty negro slaves. Her wedding dress was of white satin and was matched by white satin slippers with red heels. From New London Daniel King seems to have moved to Palmer, where he only stayed a few years. Vermont was being incorporated into the Union and attracted the attention of enterprizing men in the older states of New England &probably towards the year 1790 both Daniel and his brother Moses settled in that state at a place which they called Kingston, bust [sic] the location of which I have not been able to establish. Moses, who was married since 1771, is said to have remarried in Vermont. I understand that people of some distinction there claim descent from the King's of Palmer, but I have been unable to get any details on the subject. Daniel seems to have returned for a short time to Palmer & then went to Wilksbarree, Penn where his brother in law Genl Zebulon Butler resided. He had invested a large portion of his property in certificates of money due to soldiers of the Revolutionary Armies by the United States Government. All of these and other valuable documents were destroyed by fire &thus proved a total loss. Family tradition as remembered by his grandchildren _?_ places his dwelling house, which was destroyed by fire, at Bellons Falls Turn out [?] at Wilkesbarre, Penn and at Palmer. I do not believe that the misfortune would have happened at the latter place. ~~As far I can make out,~~ He owned no house there, but lived with his father. The latters dwelling is specially remarked upon in the history of the town on account of its large size, but no mention is made of it having been burnt. He left nine sons all whom arrived at mans estate after having received liberal educations.

They were

1, Daniel
2, John, who died at an early age during an epidemic of yellow fever in Savannah, Ga, where he had engaged in business
3, Stephen
4, Henry
5, Reuben, who died young at Marietta, Pa, where he was a physician
6, George, who went to Cuba on account of his health & there died
7, David, who went to Wayne Cy, Ga; became a planter and died of malarial fever
8, Thomas Butler
9, Andrew Lord

The fourth son Henry after having studied law at Wilksbarre, Pa began the pratice of it at Allentown in the same state about the year 1815. He was a member of the state Senate of Pa. when he was elected a Representative in the 22d Congress. He was reelected to the 23d, but separated from the Democratic party in the questions growing out of the removal of the government deposits from the Bank of the U. S. Retiring from political life he resumed the practice of the law, at which he was very succesful, as he also was in his investments; he acquired real estate on the present sight of the City of Chicago and bought lands ~~in Pa~~ which proved to contain rich coal mines. He was married, as mentioned above, to Mary Ferrel, granddaughter of Cpt. Jesse King. They had no family. On his death July 13th 1861, his property passed to his widow and on her death a few years ago to her nieces &nephews.

The youngest son Andrew Lord practiced law in Pa and afterwards in Brunswick, Ga where he married Miss Louisa Murdoch, the orphan daughter of a Cuban planter. After she had come into possession of her inheritance, a sugar plantation in Cuba, they removed to that Island and with the help of financial resources r'ced from their brother Thos Butler developed the property into one of the richest sugar estates in the neighborhood of Matangas, many hundred negro slaves and Chinese coolies being employed in its cultivation. The yearly income derived from the same was very large. Mr Andrew King died in Oct 1860; the liquidation of his estate fell into the period of political disturbances which affected the sales of property in Cuba during the following years and did not yield the results which ~~at one time~~ might have been expected ~~from it~~. Mrs Andrew King is still living in Baltimore. They had no children.

The eldest son Daniel lived in Palmer, Mass on the farm which had belonged to his grandfather Deacon Thomas. His name will be found mentioned frequently in the list of members of the family who have held public office in that town. He married Mary King, daughter of Cpt Jesse King. About the year 1834 he disposed of his Palmer property and moved to Illinois, where he made fortunate investments &continued to reside until his death in 1859. Late in life he married a second time. By his first marriage he had a son &two daughters, the youngest of whom never married. The son John Lord King lived in Springfield, Mass. He there married Miss Caroline M. Harding, daughter of the artist Mr Chester Harding of that town. He has largely interested in RR matters. He died in 1872, leaving ~~two~~ three sons and ~~two~~ one daughters, the two eldest of whom are

are married, viz Wm Harding King of Illinois to Mary D Bowler daughter of Samuel Bowler of Springfield, Mass and John Lord King, a lawyer at Syracuse, N. Y, to Anna B. Sedgwick daughter of Charles A Sedgwick of that city. Both gentlemen have families.

Daniel King jr's eldest daughter Mary Jane Gray King married Silas B Titcomb. They had a numerous family, only three of whom survive. One daughter Anna M is married to Mr Emil Dudley.

The third son of Daniel King sr, Stephen Clay, after having been engaged for several years in mercantile business in Pa, probably at Allentown, moved to Wayne Cy Georgia & became a very successful rice planter. He died in 1860 having been married to Miss Mary Fort of Wayne Cy Ga, by whom he had eight children, all of whom died unmarried at comparatively early ages with the exception of two sons; James and Henry. The elder of these, James King, who resides on the plantation inherited from his father married Miss Louisa Clark of St. Mary's, Ga, granddaughter of Oliver Wolcott, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independance. They have three children, two sons James and William (who is married to his cousin Martha, daughter of Henry King) and one daughter Rosalie. Mr James King is a zealous member of the Presbyterian Church and takes an active part in the management of its affairs. He has served several terms in the Legislature of the state. Henry King married Jean Parland of Glynn Cy, Ga, a great heiress. The value of their property having been almost destroyed by the war between the states and the condition of his own health being very precarious, Mr King moved to St. Antonio, Texas, where he is actually engaged in newspaper work. Mrs King died in . [sic] Five of their children survive. Mary, Martha (married to Wm King as already mentioned), Jean (married to Marcellus Clark, editor of "The Two Republics" newspaper in the City of Mexico), Henry Clay and Sophie.

The eighth son of Daniel King sr: Thomas Butler King after the death of his father was put in [the] charge of his uncle General Zebulon Butler. He was educated at Westfield Academy & then studied law in the office of Judge Garrick Mallery of Philadelphia, a connection of General Butlers. In 1823 he went to Georgia and in 1824 married Miss Anna Matilda Page, only daughter of Major Wm Page of St Simon's Island of that state, a wealthy planter. To the time of his death two years later Mr King assisted his father in law in the administration of his numerous estates, the sole management of which after that date came into his hands. Some of his planting enterprizes, especially those at Waverley in Camden Cy, Ga, necessitated the temporary residence of himself and his family on the main land, but they always continued to consider their beautiful estate & cotton plantation on St Simons Island, called Retreat, as their real home and occupied it until the breaking out of the war between the states in 1861. St Simons Island was the most closely settled and best cultivated of the Georgia Sea Islands. The ten or twelve plantations into which it was divided belonged to families distinguished by wealth, refinement and culture, among whom the Coupers and Butlers were prominent. Nearly all the members of these different families had, according to the notions of those times, travelled extensively, were acquainted with the ways of the world at large and free of provincial peculiarities and narrowness; the social talents of some and the literary &scientific acquirements of others of the residents constituted elements which had resulted in the creation of a society in which every well bred and well educated stranger hast came [?] but he found himself easily at home, with pleasure and advantage to himself and to his best aspirations. Shell roads, at

time of their construction on the Island an innovation, connected the different houses with one another and with Christ Church, situated nearly in the Central of the Island, all of the planters belonging to the Protestant Episcopal Church. Malarial fevers had prevailed almost annually, but Mr King initiated a system of drainage on the Retreat estate which was imitated by his neighbors & resulted in rendering the Island almost equally healthy at all seasons of the year. The numerous negro slaves belonging to the different planters were as a rule well behaved & well treated; they were more intelligent and were allowed more liberty of action than was usual on the plantations on the mainland or the other islands. Mr King in 1832 entered public life and from then to the end of his years his time and attention were almost entirely absorbed by considerations of public welfare. He was obliged to absent himself frequently & for long periods from home. The management of their property and the care of educating their numerous family therefore of necessity fell often to the unassisted share of Mrs King, who devoted herself to these arduous duties with rare assiduity, judgment, energy and abnegation. She felt to the highest degree the responsibilities involved in the ownership of a large number of slaves and the care for the bodily and mental welfare of her people was ever present with her. She was universally beloved and on her death in [sic] was deeply mourned not only by her husband and children, her relatives and friends; but also by her dependants and by all those who had ever come in contact with her. Her unmarried children continued to reside at Retreat until 1861 when the approach of the Federal fleets necessitated a removal of themselves and their slaves and other property to an estate which they had bought in Ware Cy, Ga. Retreat was occupied by the federal troops without resistance and held by them until 1866. Many of the buildings were wantonly destroyed, the remainder defaced and when the property was again surrendered to its rightful owners it had been rendered for the time almost valueless. [8]

Mr King had been opposed to secession; not because he doubted the right of the States to secede, but because he considered the provocation offered insufficient to justify such a step and because he knew the disparity between the resources of the two sections of the country too well to believe success on the part of the South possible. When however his State had voted for secession he and his family cast their lot resolutely with their own people and, as the sequel will show, four of his sons entered the armies of the Confederacy. He died at Waresboro in . [sic]

Mr King was an accomplished gentleman and owned all the qualities implied by the term. During the early years of his life in Georgia he aroused jealousies and became involved in difficulties, from which he could not disintricate [sic] himself without giving proof of his personal courage. Unless justly provoked, his disposition and manner were invariably kind and affable. In the pursuit of his private affairs he was upright, enterprizing and energetic, but his sanguine temperament sometimes induced him to entertain projects for the execution of which the means at his disposal proved inadequate.

He possessed personal attractions of a very high order, which fascinated people of different degree alike. They assured him a hearty welcome in the isolated cabin of his lowliest constituent in the backwoods of Georgia; they made him an ever welcome and highly honored guest among his Peers in Washington and other centres of Social life in this country, and they obtained for him distinguished consideration from people placed in the highest ranks during his repeated visits to Europe.

The remains of Mr & Mrs King and of their three eldest sons repose under the shadows of the beautiful live oak trees which surround the church on St Simons Island in which they were wont

to worship and near the spot where Mrs King's ancestors had been put to rest when their earthly pilgrimage was finished. The loving and enduring care of their daughter Mrs Wilder, born of filial and sisterly reverence &affection has marked the site by the erection of tombstones and further secured the departed and their worth from oblivion by dedication to the neighboring church of windows consecrated to their memory.

Edwin Robeson MacKethan III
[redacted]

June 3, 2005

Ms. Mary J. Bernat,
Reference Librarian
Palmer Public Library
1455 N. Main Street
Palmer, Massachusetts 01069

Dear Ms. Bernat:

Thank you for your letter of May 24.

I am pleased to enclose as a gift to the Palmer Public Library a copy of material on the 1892 manuscript "Memorandum on The King Family of Palmer, Massachusetts."

The material is in two booklets:

Part I: Explanatory notes
Transcription of document text

Part II: Copy of document text
Copy of document genealogy charts

I hope that this information on my ancestors, Palmer's founding family, will be beneficial to researchers of Palmer history and of the King family.

I would appreciate acknowledgement that the booklets arrived in good condition.

With best regards.